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LESSONS FROM THE CRIME LAB

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Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL
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THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CRIME LAB

WORKING WITH YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SCIENCE NERDS



What's on tap for today?

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

- What can we do?
- Who's in charge of what?

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

- Requests for additional information
- Requests for reports and disclosure
- Affidavits
- Setting up interviews and issuing subpoenas
- The officer as a liaison
- Adjudicated cases

Evolution of the AZDPS Lab

- What's new?

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

Four laboratories statewide

- Phoenix – Central Regional Crime Laboratory
- Tucson – Southern Regional Crime Laboratory
- Flagstaff – Northern Regional Crime Laboratory
- Lake Havasu City – Western Regional Crime Laboratory

One superintendent for entire lab system

Individual managers at each laboratory

- One each at SRCL, NRCL, and WRCL
- Four at CRCL
- One Quality Assurance Manager for lab system at CRCL

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

CRCL

DNA
DNA Database
Alcohol Toxicology
Drug Toxicology
Controlled Substances
Latent Prints
Firearms/Toolmarks
Questioned Documents
Trace Evidence
Footwear/Tire Tracks
Field Services Unit

SRCL

DNA
Alcohol Toxicology
Drug Toxicology
Controlled Substances
Latent Prints
Firearms/Toolmarks

NRCL

DNA
Alcohol Toxicology
Drug Toxicology (Urine)
Controlled Substances
Latent Prints

WRCL

Alcohol Toxicology
Controlled Substances
Latent Prints

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

DNA

- Identify bodily fluids (serology)
- Associate a DNA profile to an item (DNA)
- Services include property crimes, sex assaults, violent crime, CODIS/knowns, familial and Rapid

DNA Database

- Analyze convicted offender and arrestee samples for inclusion in the CODIS database

Alcohol Toxicology

- Analyze blood samples for alcohol content

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

Drug Toxicology

- Analyze bodily fluids (blood and urine) for the presence of drugs and their metabolites

Controlled Substances

- Analyze evidence for the presence of illegal drugs

Latent Prints

- Process evidence to develop and lift/photograph latent prints
- Compare developed prints to known prints and/or fingerprint databases

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

Firearms/Toolmarks

- Compare bullets and cartridge cases
- General rifling characteristics
- Distance determination
- Shooting reconstructions
- Toolmark analysis

Questioned Documents

- Handwriting comparisons
- Counterfeit documents
- Other analyses involving documents

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

Trace Evidence

- Analyze fire debris for ignitable liquids
- Analyze evidence to determine types of explosives

Footwear/Tire Tracks

- Analyze footwear and tire impressions to determine potential source

Field Services Unit

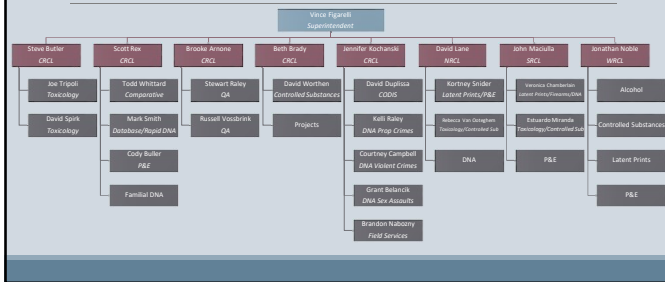
- Crime Scene Assistance and Photography
- Train officers, provide court support, and perform yearly maintenance on breath alcohol devices
- More to come

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab

DPS Scientific Analysis Bureau Contact Information Handout

- Contains all managers and supervisors within the DPS lab system
- DPS moves cases throughout the lab system, so work may be completed at a different lab than the one closest to you

Structure and Functions of the AZDPS Lab



Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Requests for additional information

If you want additional information:

- Determine which lab is closest to you and which type of analysis you are dealing with
- Contact the appropriate supervisor or manager over that type of analysis
- When dealing with more than one type of analysis falling under more than one manager or supervisor, you have multiple options:
 - Flip a coin
 - Pick the person you like best
 - Call the main number for the lab to determine where within the lab the case is currently being worked
- Results cannot be given out in cases where the analysis has not been technically reviewed

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

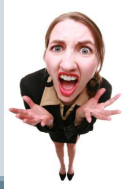
Requests for additional information

If the lab wants additional information:

- If we are contacting you, it likely means that there is a question or issue that needs to be resolved before analysis on the case can be completed
 - Clarification on analysis requested
 - Information to better determine where to start analysis
 - Notification of missing or incomplete information
- Often, these are questions that need to be answered by the attorney assigned to the case
- Please make every effort to get back to us so that we can complete the case

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Hey, DPS, why don't you just do what we tell you to?



Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Example

A bag filled with white powder and a gun are found during a traffic stop under the seat of a vehicle. The driver of the vehicle says he has never seen those items before and they aren't his. The car is owned by his girlfriend and he regularly borrows it. He is a prohibited possessor.

The evidence is submitted to the DPS lab. A request for complete controlled substance analysis is made on the drug bag and latent print and DNA requests are made on both the bag and the gun.

Hey, DPS, why don't you just do what we tell you to?

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Here's why:

- Most drug cases plead with just the results of a field test
- Laboratory field tests can be turned out by the lab within a few days
- Full analysis on the drugs could take a week or more and the latent analysis may take a few weeks more
- Additional work can always be done later, if needed, and will be expedited at that point
- DNA analysis on drug cases is not routinely done
- Nearly always unsuccessful unless there are special circumstances
- Does not establish that the individual handled the drug bag in this case
- DNA analysis on the gun does not establish that the individual handled it in this case

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Requests for additional information

Communication among all sides (law enforcement, scientists, legal) is critical to provide the best possible analysis in a case

- Allows us to better answer the questions needed to help solve a case
- Allows us to be more efficient by focusing our work
- Allows us to better prioritize work
- Allows us to apply our expertise to the case
- Allows us to educate on the limitations of forensic evidence

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Requests for reports and disclosure

- Contact the main number or email for the lab
- Describe the disclosure being requested
- For simple disclosures, office staff will handle
- For more complicated disclosures, office staff will forward to analyst in the case to complete
- For larger systemic disclosures, contact Brooke Arnone (quality assurance manager)
 - Accreditation information
 - Proficiency tests
 - Public records requests

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Affidavits

- The DPS Crime Lab will issue affidavits in cases where ordered by the court and/or where we will be unable to complete analysis by a court deadline
- The affidavit will often include specific information about how the lab became aware of the analysis and the specific cause(s) preventing us from completing the analysis by a given date
- Contact the appropriate manager or supervisor if you think an affidavit will be needed in a case

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Setting up interviews and issuing subpoenas

- Contact the analyst directly to set up interviews
 - Use the main lab number and/or email if you do not have a direct line or email for the analyst
- Subpoenas should be sent to the crime lab for the analyst in question
 - Subpoena will be logged by office staff and forwarded to analyst
- In cases where the analyst is unknown (i.e. breath alcohol case), address the subpoena to "DPS analyst" or something similar.
- Contact the appropriate lab, manager or supervisor with any questions
- Please contact the analyst if there is a change in the status of interviews or court

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

The officer as a liaison



- Can be appropriate in certain circumstances
- Most common phrase we hear from the officer is "The county attorney wants this."
 - If appropriate to case, we will do it but...
- In MANY cases, "The county attorney wants this" is code for "I want this done"
- If there are issues or questions, we will want to talk to the attorney (or you) directly
- It's YOUR office's case to try, so if you really don't want something, we don't want to waste both our time with it
- Generally better if you contact us directly if it really is coming from you

Doing Business with the AZDPS Lab

Adjudicated cases

- Cases often get adjudicated prior to crime lab analysis being completed
- In theory, all partners in the case are notified of this fact, including the investigating officer and the crime lab
- In practice, AZDPS Crime Lab rarely receives this information
- If cases are adjudicated, providing an email to crcl@azdps.gov or to contacts at your local lab with the following information would be appreciated:
 - Investigating agency and their DR number
 - Suspect name
 - DPS DR number, if known

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Backlog reduction and turnaround time improvements
 Laboratory Field Testing
 Rapid DNA Law Enforcement program
 DNA Quick Screening
 Familial DNA
 Field Services Unit
 Direct to DNA
 Outreach

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Backlog reduction and turnaround time improvements

- In July 2015, the AZDPS Crime Lab had 6,639 cases backlogged (defined as cases older than 30 days)
- As of mid-March 2018, that number has dropped to 2,297 cases, the lowest system backlog in 11 years
- Many cases now have reports issued within 30 days
- Achieved through variety of ways
 - Specialization of DNA units to handle specific workflows
 - Threshold processing
 - Workflow changes utilizing lab techs
 - Movement of cases throughout system
 - Focus on productivity metrics

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Laboratory Field Testing

- Modified version of field testing performed within the laboratory
- Allows analysis of most controlled substances cases within a week
- Provides ability to charge and plea on cases in a timely fashion
- Reduces associated backlogs in other units, such as latents
- Option for additional work if going to court
- Dropped the controlled substances backlog for the DPS lab system from 2277 cases in August 2017 to 497 cases in March 2018

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Rapid DNA Law Enforcement program

- Officers statewide trained as operators on Rapid DNA instruments
- Allows analysis of single source DNA samples in less than two hours to develop investigative leads
- Utilized in approximately 350 cases since launch of program in April 2014
- Helped to develop investigative leads in over 100 cases
- All cases verified by the laboratory prior to trial

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

DNA Quick Screening

- Launched in early 2015
- Swabs from sex assault kits run through front-end batched screening process
- Determines presence of sperm and male DNA on samples
 - Helps narrow down most probative samples
 - Helps determine samples with highest potential for developing DNA profiles
- Current average turnaround time of less than 30 days
- Still requires request for samples to go on for DNA analysis

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Direct to DNA

- Coming soon
- Will replace quick screening for the most part
- Will send up to three samples in all sex assault kits straight to DNA
- Focuses on getting full DNA results out more quickly on most probative samples

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Familial DNA program

- Launched in November 2017
- Deliberate search of the CODIS database for potential close biological relatives of an unknown profile
- Case must meet specific criteria and have a formal request from the chief of the police agency to the director of AZDPS
- Labor-intensive and expensive
- Analysis in first case started in January 2018

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Field Services Unit

- Unit currently under creation
- Incorporates multiple functions that assist investigations outside of the crime lab
 - Crime scene photography and processing
 - Assist sworn in proper selection of evidence for future lab processing
 - Breath alcohol training, repairs, and support
 - Front end triaging of cases

Evolution of the DPS Crime Lab

Community Outreach

- Provides community outreach to citizens throughout the state of Arizona
- Formally offered system-wide since 2009
- Over 325 community outreach activities provided reaching more than 11000 people

Professional Outreach

- Provides training for our law enforcement and judicial partners
 - Intoxilyzer and field drug test trainings statewide
 - Conferences for various groups like AAPAC and AHIA
 - Arizona Forensic Science Academy

Any Questions?





Technical Services Division

DPS Scientific Analysis Bureau Contact Information

SUPERINTENDENT

Vince Figarelli | 602-223-2778 | vfigarelli@azdps.gov – bureau chief over Scientific Analysis Bureau (four regional labs including CRCL)

DPS Central Regional Crime Lab **Main number: 602-223-2394** **Lab email: crcl@azdps.gov**

MANAGERS

Scott Rex | 602-223-2339 | srex@azdps.gov - manager over latent prints, firearms, trace evidence, questioned documents, property and evidence, DNA database, Rapid DNA program and familial DNA program

Jennifer Kochanski | 602-223-2795 | jenniferkochanski@azdps.gov – manager over DNA Casework and field services (including crime scene and breath alcohol)

Beth Brady | 602-223-2798 | ebrody@azdps.gov – manager over controlled substances and projects

Steve Butler | 602-223-2761 | sbutler@azdps.gov – statewide manager over toxicology

Brooke Arnone | 602 223-2733 | barnone@azdps.gov – quality assurance manager

SUPERVISORS

Controlled Substances – **Dave Worthen** | 602-223-2415 | dworthen@azdps.gov

Toxicology – **Joe Tripoli** | 602-223-2886 | jtripoli@azdps.gov and **Dave Spirk** | 602-223-2793 | dspirk@azdps.gov

Latent Prints/Questioned Documents/Firearms/Trace Evidence – **Todd Whittard** | 602-223-2744 | twhittard@azdps.gov

CODIS – **Dave Duplissa** | 602-223-2775 | dduplissa@azdps.gov

DNA Database and RapidHit program – **Mark Smith** | 602-223-2889 | msmith@azdps.gov

Property and Evidence – **Cody Buller** | 602-223-2572 | cbuller@azdps.gov

DNA Property Crimes – **Kelli Raley** | 602-223-2842 | kraley@azdps.gov

DNA Sex Assault – **Grant Belancik** | 602-223-2848 | gbelnacik@azdps.gov

DNA Violent Crimes – **Courtney Campbell** | 602-223-2766 | ccampbell@azdps.gov

Field Services Unit – **Brandon Nabozny** | 602-223-2713 | bnabozny@azdps.gov

Quality Assurance - **Stewart Raley** | 602-271-7408 | sraleay@azdps.gov and **Russell Vossbrink** | 602-223-5067 | rvossbrink@azdps.gov



Technical Services Division

DPS Scientific Analysis Bureau Contact Information

DPS Northern Regional Crime Lab Main number: 928-773-3687

David Lane | 928-773-3660 | dlane@azdps.gov - manager and DNA supervisor

Kortney Snider | 928-773-3641 | ksnider@azdps.gov – latent prints and P&E supervisor

Rebecca Van Ooteghem | 928-773-3672 | rvanooteghem@azdps.gov – toxicology and controlled substances supervisor

DPS Southern Regional Crime Lab Main number: 520-746-4575

John Maciulla | 520-746-4639 | jmaciulla@azdps.gov - manager and P&E supervisor

Veronica Chamberlain | 520-746-4203 | vchamberlain@azdps.gov – latent prints, firearms, and DNA supervisor

Estuardo Miranda | 520-746-4579 | emiranda@azdps.gov – toxicology and controlled substances supervisor

DPS Western Regional Crime Lab Main number: 928-680-5490

Jonathan Noble | 928-680-5491 | jnoble@azdps.gov – manager/supervisor of alcohol, controlled substances, latent prints, and P&E

SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS BUREAU - AZDPS

